

Elizabeth shows its love for a beloved native son

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Jonathan Butler, Boney James jazz it up at the Beacon Theater

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Malcolm D. L. expectations with debut flick "The Best Man"

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CITY NEWS

Serving New Jersey's African-American communities since 1983

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Prison industry targets young blacks

Is our justice system colorblind?

This report is the first in a series that explores the realities of race as a factor in crime and punishment in New Jersey.

By Carl Chase
Staff Writer

Reforming America's Prison-Industrial Complex remains a dream deferred for many activists forced to watch minorities — black youth and men especially — live somewhat as prisoners of war, trapped and tortured in a life of crime and punishment.

The Boycott Crime Campaign in Newark is sponsoring its fifth public forum in its series called "American Prisons: Second Coming of Slavery," in its quest to break the chains of the prison industry. At Essex County College, Martin Luther King and Martin Luther King Boulevard in Newark on Friday, Oct. 29, the group will encourage all citizens to "speak out against the inhumane prison policies that are dictated by political corruption and corporate gangs," said Fredricka Bey, executive director of the Women In Support of the Million Man March, one of the 14 key sponsors of the anti-crime campaign.

"We are striving towards zero prison population," she said of the campaign. "The only way to do that is for all Americans to boycott crime. The criminal justice system, the prison-industrial Complex and the corporations that billions of our consumer dollars maintain should be the first to boycott crime."

Bonnie Kerness of the American Friends Service Committee, an established prison-reform group says at least three out of four inmates in New Jersey are people of color. "For kids, it's even more out of proportion."

"I think it's genocide," she said. "Politically and economically, the whole idea of prisons works perfectly: the schools are the feeder systems to the juvenile justice system, which is the feeder for the adult prisons."

On any given night in Essex County, nine out of 10 prisoners held in the Youth House in Newark are African-American. Another 10 percent of the 250 detainees are Hispanic, said Director Joe Clark. About 1 percent are white, he said.

Contrary to popular opinion, this disproportionate minority confinement is a growing trend, Clark says. "They're building more and bigger jails."

And by large, whites don't commit the same crimes, he said. "They don't steal cars and do donuts out in the street. They don't sell drugs on corners. White kids steal cars and then cut them up and sell the parts. They sell drugs in the back of their beds."

"They don't kill one another. Columbine and all that is an aberration — but we do, and nobody says anything."

As long as it's black-on-black crime, it's okay,"

What's needed are better alternatives to incarceration, Clark believes. "We need to begin from the grassroots up, to begin to build facilities to house them where we can teach them values, skills, and provide medical and dental care. Until we do, we're headed for oblivion."

Halfway houses, orphanages and other programs can be adapted to serve kids as has the Youth House itself.

Ex-convicts are assigned to either the street or

balance that of the street, and other environments come from Clark said. These include some 300 mentors, church services provided every Sunday, and other services.

From my vast experience in education and corrections, I have to say 70 percent of them have no guidance, their fathers are on drugs or in jail, their mothers might have AIDS, their grandmothers are tired — they need help."

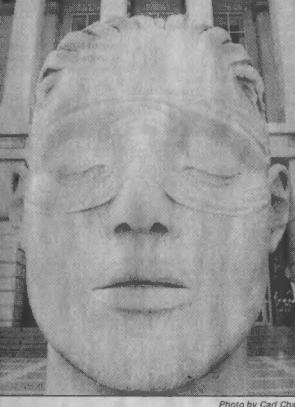


Photo by Carl Chase

'Remembering WeSelves,' a history lesson

Playwright Amiri Baraka gives Newark audience a sneak preview of his new play

By Gilda Rogers
Staff Writer



Amiri Baraka

NEWRK — A giant encased in a small frame weaving historical facts like a skilled craftsman, and of course he is. Amiri Baraka, author, poet, historian, award-winning playwright, scholar, and Newark's beloved native son. Baraka was well received by the large crowd gathered at Metropolitan Baptist Church in Newark, where he spoke about his latest play. The new work, "Remembering WeSelves: Black Renaissance in Harlem," debuted at The New Jersey Performing Arts Center on Oct. 23.

Candid, profound and rhythmically articulate with a soulful groove, Baraka, who celebrated his 65th birthday a couple of weeks ago, transformed the audience of elders and youth into students of African-American history, as he told of events and times relevant to the Newark community.

The Civil War, Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, Emancipation, the Southern black belt, lynching, the great migration North and W.E.B. DuBois, were just some of the topics he intrinsically plucked from his thoughts before revealing the vitality of the Harlem Renaissance.

"DuBois was the founder of the Harlem Renaissance," said Baraka, who is touted as being the founder of the "Black Arts Movement of the 60's." He alluded to the fact that DuBois was so smart white people took up a collection and sent him to college — Fisk University. DuBois would go on to become the first African-American to graduate from Harvard with a doctorate degree, and where he was a professor of humanities.

Holding DuBois' book "The Souls of Black Folk" Baraka said, "If you never read another book, read this one."

DuBois, whose character comes to life in Baraka's play along with other important characters from the Harlem Renaissance — Marcus Garvey, Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, Claude McKay, Duke Ellington, Bessie Smith, Al'Lelia Walker, and Wallace Thurman and others, all despite their differences in opinions and places in time engage in conversation with each other in various corners of the nation and world. This is the foundation of Baraka's play.

"The Renaissance was a political uprising," stressed Baraka. "The consciousness, the history of the people."

Referring to Newark's Renaissance, Baraka raised the question, "Who's this Newark Renaissance?" For Baraka asked, admonishing people to take pride in Newark.

"All around Lincoln Park and Bradford Place, we have to reclaim that and make this town what it was," said Baraka. "The Bridge Club is now shut down, we have to open it. We want that to be a bed and breakfast and small theater. Newark has always been a measurement for me for all things in the world."

Baraka's family roots run deep in the City of Newark, and along with his wife, Amina, he has lived in the same house on South 10th Street for 30 years. His father of nine children, some of whom work within the Newark school system.

Jersey City employees sweat layoffs

By Gloria Dulan-Wilson
Staff Writer

It's now nine days and counting down to the impending layoffs threatened by Jersey City Mayor Brett Schundler in a challenge to Gov. Christine Todd Whitman to allocate more funds to the city's budget. Some \$27.4 million in state aid, needed to shore up the city's \$31 million budget. Thus far, however, in this stand-off, it appears the only ones sweating are the city's public sector faculty if they are pawns in a political game.

Caught in the midst of a bizarre squeeze play that has nothing to do with them, States one union member, who only gave his name as "Bob," "What's really happening is that Schundler spent all the money underwriting his cronies."

He has high hopes for his job, a job producing people who will support his campaign.

In the meantime, we, who have families to support, and have been here for years, only make \$30,000 or \$40,000.

He's wasted nearly \$70 million in kickbacks and payoffs. All those high priced properties being developed are what we've been given to the brooks, so the city is realizing minimum revenues. We can't afford to live in them, but we're supporting them because our taxes are being raised while they're in half million dol-

lar homes!" Stated another city employee, with the Jersey City City Council of Housing Code Enforcement. "These landlords can't wait for the layoffs. They'll make sure that landlords don't evict them illegally or increase the rents without cause. This thing is going to hit practically every facet of life in Jersey City."

Another who is a real estate broker believes Schundler was really going to lay them off, the employee responded. "Schundler doesn't care. He doesn't even know we exist. We're the pawns in some sort of chess game."

If the slide were on the other side, I think I'd get the message. But this is safe. The only thing that can be done is make sure he never gets elected to another office in Jersey City — in the entire state of New Jersey — ever again.

But now just want the people of Jersey City to know that if you let this happen, if you let them get away with this, you deserve to lose everything."

This was a rather bitter note. And while it is a member of the brickmasons' union says there are so many families that will be effected that the devastation is more than just a few thousand employees. In fact, according to

a union member, "The school crossing guards that make sure children cross safely during school hours, will all lose their jobs."

The Jersey City Law Department will likewise be effected, with Jersey City's Municipal Court left dark.

Impending prosecutor layoffs mean that everything from drunk driving to releasing drug offenders, and other offenders back on to the city's streets could happen as prosecutor's office is asked to replace the staff from 50 to 14 employees.

Schundler and Whitman are supposed to meet about the city's problems. However, according to a spokesperson from City Hall, thus far Whitman has set no date, and has only sent an auditor to look at Schundler's spending practices.

Many believe that as the date of City Hall's audit draws near on Oct. 29, which is the last Friday of the month, efforts to reconcile will be stepped up. Meanwhile, many city employees admit they are actively seeking either part time or alternative employment. One employee who has worked with the city for 15 years, stated.

"I simply cannot afford to lose my job. I'm a single mother, I have three children at home and one in college. I just bought a new home. Who needs this kind of nonsense?"

Growing coalition opposes Elizabeth referendum

ELIZABETH — Police officers, firefighters and a broad range of community organizations have joined "Responsible People Vote NO" grassroots group opposed to a referendum on the Nov. 2 ballot that would add costly elections in the city.

The local PBA, the Firemen's Mutual Benevolent Association, the firefighters' Safety Officers Association and EMS Chief Tom Dumino have all lent their support to the "NO" effort. Community groups including Citizens for a Safer Elizabeth, Citizens Concerned for Education and Latinos for Progress also oppose the referendum.

"Ballot Question No. 4 would cost city taxpayers more than \$110,000," said PBA President Izzy Oliviero. "This could cause an increase in property taxes or sever cuts to public safety services. Extra elections are not a good reason to take police officers and firefighters off our streets." The referendum would force Elizabeth residents to face five elections in one year.

Elizabeth is becoming a better city with each passing year," said Michele Donegan, an Elmora resident and chair of Citizens for a Safer Elizabeth.

"People have been calling from all over the city asking to join the effort," said Saffrin.

Cleveland Mayor: "The man speaks for urban cities"

By Gilda Rogers
Staff Writer

NEWARK — "A mistake by the late reformer Cleveland, Ohio, was the phrase Mayor Sharpe James used prior to introducing the city's mayor, Michael White, whose first-time visit to Newark on October 19, proved to be an inspiration to James' administration in its ongoing effort to revitalize Newark, in particular the downtown area, through the guise of a sports complex. "He's demonstrated clearly that we can revitalize cities. The man who speaks for urban cities," said James.

White, a three term mayor, faced a barrage of opposition early in his lead position, from those who felt he effort to revitalize the city of Cleveland through the guise of the Gateway Development Project was less than feasible considering the visage of its downtown urban communities.

"Gateway is more than just a sports complex," said Williams. "I believe to have your arts center (NJPAC) is a major point of pride. While I feel it would have been a major project and it was a springboard to what's going on around us."

Before taking office in 1989, Williams, 43, said there were only 3.8 million people visiting downtown Cleveland, since being in office that number has risen to 8 million visitors. Before taking office, Williams said only

"Crime is down 28 percent since last year and has fallen in every year in a row. We are also seeing more recreational opportunities for all residents, particularly our children."

Former school board member Alice Holzapfel, a leader of Citizens Concerned for Education, said, "If we jeopardize that, families will suffer and taxpayer support for education will diminish."

"This city has changed for the better for all of its residents in the last seven years. I would never have thought that Elizabeth would have the Jersey Gardens Mall, with 8,000 new jobs," said Antonio Rivera, chairman of Latinos for Progress.

"Are we going to risk impeding the progress simply to appease a few politicians?"

Just one week after "Responsible People Vote NO" announced its campaign to defeat the ballot question, even more new and existing organizations are joining the effort, said Alain Saffrin, chairman of the grass roots organization.

"People have been calling from all over the city asking to join the effort," said Saffrin.

NATIONAL

BRIEF

CBC OUTRAGED OVER
REJECTION OF JUDGE
RONNIE WHITE'S NOMI-
NATION

(NNPA) — The Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) recently held a press conference to voice their outrage over the 54-45 vote by the Senate to reject Missouri Supreme Court Judge Ronnie White's nomination. "We are here today to urge that the Senate stop playing politics with judicial appointments — stop holding minority and female candidates hostage — and stop denying qualified candidates their day in court," said Rep. James Clyburn (D-S.C.), chair of the CBC. "It's just not fair for the Senate to hold a nomination in limbo for so long. It undermines the confirmation process." I call upon President Clinton and the Senate to continue to nominate more qualified minorities and women to the federal bench and not be deterred by the Senate's action or lack of action." The President, in a statement, said, "I will continue to fulfill my obligation to nominate and press for the confirmation of the most qualified candidates possible for the federal bench." By voting down the first African-American judge, who was already serving — the first African-American judge to serve on the Missouri State Supreme Court, the Republican-controlled Senate is adding credence to a position that they treat minority and women judicial nominees unfairly and unequally." Judge White's is just one of the many nominations that the Senate had not acted upon until the Oct. 6 rejection vote. Judge Marsha Berzon, who has been waiting 20 months, and Judge Richard Paez, who has been waiting 44 months, still have not had their nominations taken before the Senate for a vote.

HHS SECRETARY SHAALA URGING OLDER
AMERICANS TO GET
FLU SHOTS

(NNPA) — Each winter an influenza epidemic sweeps the country, killing an average of 20,000 people, most of them over 65 years of age, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. While 65 percent of senior citizens receive their flu shots, millions more remain unprotected. "The flu poses a serious potential hazard to older Americans, but it's a hazard we can all protect against," said Secretary Donna Shalala. "Every senior citizen needs to know that flu and pneumonia shots are convenient, free under Medicare and sometimes life-saving." The flu shot must be given every year, and it is recommended for those at-risk of developing serious complications as a result of the infection: those 65 and older; those in nursing homes; and those with chronic diseases of the heart, lungs or kidneys, diabetes, hypertension or severe forms of anemia. For information about receiving a shot covered by Medicare, call 1(800) 638-6332 or visit [cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/flu/weekly.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/flu/weekly.htm). For information about influenza, call the Center for Disease Control at 1(800) 232-2522 or visit [cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/flu/weekly.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/flu/weekly.htm).

CHOLERA EPIDEMIC
RAVAGES PORT LOKO
IN SIERRA LEONE

PORT LOKO (IPS) — Sierra Leone's northwestern district of Port Loko has been hit by a cholera epidemic that is taking a serious toll on the local population. Health authorities told IPS that the deaths of more than 40 women and children have been recorded as a result of the outbreak. Port Loko is situated about 115 kilometers northwest of the capital of Freetown. The main source of the spread of cholera has been rebel and government forces during Sierra Leone's 10-year conflict. The situation has been further worsened by the sale of palm nut oil mixed with caustic soda by unscrupulous traders. Unable to afford palm oil or ordinary cooking oil, customers have resorted to buying the cheap and poisonous mixture. It could take quite a while before the situation is brought under control. The authorities have to address the burning issue of malnutrition and hunger in a community that is constantly being harassed by marauding rebels who, like the impoverished civilian population, want food and medicine.

The presidential Democratic race fueled with speculation

By Ron Fournier

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Democratic presidential campaign is in the early stages of a political battle that could leave the eventual nominee broke and politically weakened. Vice President Al Gore's side, rival Bill Bradley's advantage in fund raising and a highly competitive primary calendar all point toward a race that could last deep into the spring. Interviews with a dozen Democrats inside and outside the campaigns suggest Gore remains the party favorite, but Bradley holds appeal in several swing states. "It is likely to win, but it's not going to be an exciting experience," said Democratic consultant Geoff Garin, who is not in either camp.

It all starts, as it always does, in Iowa and eight days later in New Hampshire — where momentum seized by a candidate is more important than the small number of delegates awarded by state parties. In Iowa, Gore holds a double-digit lead in polls over the New Jersey senator. Though Bradley has narrowed the gap, both candidates expect the vice president's institutional advantages — such as the AFL-CIO's endorsement — to give him the edge on Jan. 24. Then comes New Hampshire on Feb. 1. Bradley has rallied to pull even, and the vice president is running scared. He will be in the state for most of the next two weeks, preparing for a forum with Bradley at month's end. For now, consultants say, the edge goes to Bradley.

Who wins may not be as much as who exceeds expectations and heads into the delegate-rich section of the calendar with momentum. The current schedule, which Democratic leaders are tinkering with, has no delegates awarded between Feb. 1 and March 7. That would give the New Hampshire winner five weeks to ride the tide of victory. Fifteen



L-R Vice President Al Gore and former New Jersey Sen. Bill Bradley are throwing down big money in their campaign for president.

states and American Samoa have scheduled primaries and caucuses. Maine's March 12, 300 delegate vote will be an early indicator of the 2,189 needed to win the nomination under current assumptions.

The day was tailor-made for Bradley, whose strong ties to the Northeast date to his Hall of Fame career as a professional basketball player with the New York Knicks. Connecticut, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York and Rhode Island are leaning toward Bradley, consultants say. He also is strong in Minnesota and his home state of Missouri, they said.

Of the remaining states, only California's 367 delegates and Ohio's 146 delegates pack a punch. Gore holds a 5-2 lead over Bradley in the Golden State and must maintain it.

If Gore ends up leading in both California and New York, it's not necessarily a fatal blow. But it's pretty close to it," Garin said.

The flip side, consultants say, is that if Bradley wins in March 7 if Gore wins New Hampshire, New York and California.

"Right now, it's advantage Gore," said Los Angeles consultant Bill Car-



R-W Vice President Al Gore and former New Jersey Sen. Bill Bradley are throwing down big money in their campaign for president.

rick, a Gore ally. "But this is a trend place where voters can move more easily."

With 41 percent of the delegates awarded through March 7, Gore and Bradley would spend the next week battling in Utah (edge to Bradley), Nevada (edge to Gore), Colorado (toss-up) and a few other states before a Southern showdown. Up next, March 14: Bradley's day of reckoning. If Bradley had a good week, this is Gore's chance for a comeback. The vice president is from Tennessee and enjoys a 3-0 support advantage in the state's two advanced primaries, which could give him a lead of the day's six states — Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Texas.

Bradley plans to pick one state to focus his resources, hoping to stall Gore's momentum. His top aides have worked in Mississippi, and Bradley is within 12 percentage points of Gore in Oklahoma. Paula Begala, a Democratic consultant and Bradley's top aide, said Gore's lead is out of control after the March 7 primaries, which are stocked with high-salaried, well-educated voters who tell pollsters they favor Bradley over

Gore. With little support from labor or minority voters, Bradley will not feel as welcome among Southern Democrats, Begala said.

"Bradley is down now to Chablis drinkers and Brie eaters and Volvo drivers," he said. "Those are wonderful Democrats, but you've got to have some beer drinkers or you don't get the nomination."

Two-thirds of the delegates will be pledged through March 14, awarded proportionally based on the candidate's showings in congressional districts and statewide. If Bradley wins New Hampshire, sweeps the Northeast, loses California and is swept by Gore on March 14, the delegate count at this point could still be roughly even. Consultants say it could be a slugfest after March 15, with the outcome going to Gore because of his support among party leaders. He should get a lion's share of the 799 "super delegates" elected officials and party leaders whose votes are not tied to primary results. One wild card may be Bradley's longer-than-expected campaign treasury. Gore's free-spending ways continue with a projected \$440,000 ad campaign.

The worst-case scenario for Democrats: The primary fight for liberal voters drags into May or June if the GOP contest is settled sooner, the Republican nominee would get a head start courting general election voters.

"Gore will be the ultimate nominee, but he will be defined way to the left of mainstream — out of money and short on ideas," said GOP consultant Scott Reed. "I'm not sure the 1996 campaign of Bob Dole, who staggered out of the primary — broke and easily cast by President Clinton as a pawn of extremists in his party. Democrats do not want to repeat that history."

Ron Fournier is *The Associated Press' chief political writer.*

USDA names building complex to
honor Dr. George Washington Carver

BELTSVILLE, MD — U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman named a new building complex for Dr. George Washington Carver recently. The George Washington Carver Center will encompass four buildings on the USDA campus in Beltsville, Md., which will house government offices and a medical center.

"This is a significant day for Tuskegee University," said the University's President Dr. Benjamin F. Payton, who joined Secretary Glickman at the dedication. "George Washington Carver was an outstanding educator and one of the most prolific scientists in American history. A humble man with a magnanimous spirit, his visionary research at our institution revolutionized modern agriculture."

"Today, Dr. Carver's spirit still guides Tuskegee University's philosophy and its work," noted Dr. Payton. "We continue his academic legacy by providing minority students with the finest educational opportunities in science and technology. Dr. Carver's work is also leading us into the future, and at this moment our scientists are literally on the cutting edge of research in biotechnology and space agriculture." With a grant from NASA, Tuskegee University is developing agricultural systems that will allow humans to live in outer space. The challenge is to create crops that are nutritious, compact, and that can recycle wastes. The peanut

and sweet potato, two direct descendants of George Washington Carver's pioneering work, have already been studied on Space Shuttle missions. Dr. Carver developed scientific methods of soil rotation and fertilization, created harder varieties of cotton and introduced the peanut as a major cash crop which helped revolutionize the southern economy. In 1890, Dr. Carver introduced the Jessup Wagon — a hand-drawn traveling classroom used to demonstrate improved agricultural methods to struggling farmers throughout the South. Carver's Jessup Wagon was adopted by the Texas Department of Agriculture and was the inspiration for the USDA's agricultural extension stations.

During his 47 years at Tuskegee, Dr. Carver invented close to 350 new products from the peanut, over 100 products from the sweet potato and soybean, and developed techniques for extracting "rubber" from industrial sludge. Yet, Dr. Carver refused to patent most of his inventions. He said, "God gave them to me. How can I sell them to someone else?"

Tuskegee University was founded in 1881 by Booker T. Washington and currently enrolls more than 3,900 students from 42 states, the District of Columbia, and 34 foreign countries. An historically African American university, Tuskegee University has produced generations of outstanding

Report: Few blacks make it
to boardroom in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Whites still dominate South African company boardrooms five years after the end of apartheid, according to a study released Sunday. Blacks made up 12 percent of the directors of South African companies listed on the stock exchange, according to the Times of Johannesburg, which commissioned the private study. Even among black empowerment companies that were intended to redress racial imbalance in the control of wealth, only 37 percent of 260 directors in such organizations are black, the study said.

Twenty-one of the 600 companies listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange have black chief executives. Women have a lower profile, holding only 5 percent of directorships of listed companies. Earlier this year, one of the largest black-managed companies on the exchange, New Africa Investments Ltd., was rocked by the resignation of two high-profile proponents of encouraging black entrepreneurship. Shareholders rebelled when the two directors and other officials tried to give themselves share options in a subsidiary bank.

Joint Center
launch black
leadership
information
exchange

WASHINGTON — The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies recently launched the Black Leadership Information Exchange (BLIE), the first interactive membership network for traditional emerging black leaders.

BLIE offers members a common database of in-depth research and analysis, an avenue for collaborative activities and linkages with other leaders and groups, an enhances their response and ability to shape public policy issues. It also gives them national, nonpartisan platform to further public discourse of topical issues through Public Policy Forums and online discussions.

"I am very excited about BLIE as it is the first time in history that black leaders will have a common information resource around which they can craft solutions to policies affecting the black community," said Eddie N. Williams, president of Joint Center.

In addition to BLIE, the Joint Center unveiled DataBank, a new centralized online clearinghouse of exclusive Joint Center data, as well as data from various agencies. It will be one of the largest repositories of data and information on African Americans and can be publicly accessed through the Joint Center website, www.jointcenter.org.

The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, a nonpartisan nonprofit organization, conducts research and analysis on public policy issues of concern to African Americans and other minorities and promotes their involvement in the government process.

ing graduates across an array of academic disciplines.

Black people respond to targeted marketing campaigns

According to a report by *Packaged Facts*, black people are highly receptive to financial services that are marketed to them. Example: Deluxe Corporation, by creating a check series commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King, exceeded their market projections by 15%.

Packaged Facts is a product of FBN/SWP Research Publications Group



Minority Business Journal

EDITORIAL

Friends: a rare breed

Excuse the cliché, but people never cease to amaze me. Just when you think you've really gotten to know a person — BOOM! — from out of nowhere, sometimes you never see it coming, like a car accident. I mean, I know that there are two distinct categories of people come in — friends and acquaintances. And believe you me, there's a big difference between the two. Friends are few and far between. I'm sure you've heard those who are rich and famous talk about how they only have one or two and if lucky maybe three friends. Good friends, people who you know you can count on and trust are not an easy find. But the goodness about life is this: if you're conscious about what's happening you'll discover the true one's because they'll sort themselves out with time. I mean, I'm not talking about the ones that get cut out too, now, with deception and dishonest wranglings. I've often given this sermon to my teenage daughter, who is still in the process of learning what real friendship is all about. And imagine some people don't have any friends. That's a sad place to be, because when you have people in your life that when all else and everyone else have failed you and they're still around because they choose to be, because they truly love you — that's an awesome thing. There's a wall hanging that hangs in my house which says, "Friends are rare, but when you find them, hold onto them." I mean, I'm not about to start disagreeing with you know who. So don't be blinded by those who appear to have your best interest at heart. People are filled with trickery and eventually you know who will wish the bad one's out. The only thing you need do is to watch and by all means see!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Governor Whitman,

I am requesting that you act now to find justice for my husband Max Antoine, who is a 30-year-old Haitian American victim of police brutality. The Irvington, NJ Police Department and township robbed him of his civil rights and his physical well-being. The incident which occurred June 2, 1996, nearly three years at his sister Marie Antoine's birthday party in her Irvington apartment, left him with a paraplegic, blind in his left eye and deaf in his left ear. Our daughter witnessed the beating in terror at the age of two and now, nearly five, remains a paraplegic.

However the two police officers, remain free to continue their brutal racist practice protected by the township government. On the other hand my husband was framed up on assault charges for resisting arrest and was tried on

June 7, 1999 at the Essex County Court house.

The violent police attack followed Max's advice to his sister that she record their badge numbers and file a complaint because they invaded and searched her apartment without a warrant and assaulted her and her guests.

Inside the apartment Max was handcuffed on the floor, dragged him into the hallway down a flight of stairs, pushed him into the storm door, breaking the glass and continued torturing him in the squad car and in the police station.

If you want to reply, send an e-mail to: marie@prodigy.net or by writing to Marie and Max Antoine, P.O. Box 3393, Jersey City, NJ 07303.

Marie Darlene Antoine,
wife of Max Antoine

Child care crisis

By Marian Wright Edelman

There was an article in the Washington Post in September about the lack of day care facilities in our nation's capital and its suburbs. A woman, six months pregnant, began her search, only to find child care options practically non-existent. Many good and expensive centers have waiting lists. Some centers require a waiting an average 15-month wait before you can expect to get a child in. Workers who love children and are trained to care for them, either in a licensed facility or in their homes, are leaving the profession in record numbers for better paying jobs in a booming economy.

According to a study by the Center for the Child Care Workforce, teachers in child care facilities earn an average of \$14,630 per year, and teaching assistants earn an average of \$10,500. At these wages, if centers can be qualified employees to begin with, they have come to expect high turnovers, with more than one in four teachers and 39 percent of assistants leaving their jobs in the course of a year.

Those who care for our children in many cases earn less than dog trainers or manicurists. Even families who can afford high costs have difficulty finding care. Some centers are raising fees just to put a name on what's like. Can you imagine what it's like for the one out of three families with young children who earn less than \$25,000 a year?

In cities in 15 states where the crunch is particularly tight, the average annual cost of care for a

four-year-old in an urban child care center costs twice as much as care for a two-year-old. In fact, the highest child care costs in urban areas, a family with an infant and a four-year-old, with both parents working full time at the minimum wage (\$21,400), would spend half of its income on child care. The crisis is growing at alarming proportions, just when more quality, affordable child care is most needed. In 1996, the so-called "welfare reform" law, mothers who once stayed home with their children (and sometimes their neighbor's and relative's children) have had to give up welfare assistance and enter the job market at least three times livable wages.

We must remind ourselves that in time and again that African people in America were captured from Africa and brought to this hemisphere against our will. As the 1974 "Black Capital" article asserted, "Our introduction to the West was in the hands of a commandingly rapacious African who, as a later capital, chatted, and curtailed like a lion to build a nation for someone else."

In the article, it explained that, "our history tells us that we were below slaves and less than human. We were things who were traded for horses, our women used as breeders and our children raised like cattle."

Finally, the "Black Capital" article pointed out that during the slavery process, "The level of our existence was based upon the skill and the will of those who owned us. They had the right to deem that which was best for property."

The article, the profit-oriented side of the slave master determined that this Black wealth would bring the highest return on its investment.

This is still at work today. Just examine the role of African people in the entertainment and athletics industry. White people own and control these industries and use African people to bring the highest return on their investment.

If African American people are going to ever have a serious mental breakthrough in terms of how we analyze our condition in America, we will have to resolve the question, "Are we our own worst enemy," or has the system of white supremacy created a set of conditions that continue to keep us in an

No justice for police whistle blower

By Earl Ofari Hutchinson

"They are trying to starve me out," Black Riverside police officer Rene Rodriguez, spoke his weary words of personal and professional despair on a recent edition of CBS-TV's "60 Minutes." Rodriguez said that "they" are the Riverside, Calif. police and city officials. He said that they are angry at him for blowing the whistle on discrimination and abusive practices within the department.

Rodriguez's tale of woe began in December 1998 when he arrived at the scene of a shooting after four White officers had killed Puerto Rican and nineteen-year-old black woman, but while she sat in her car, Rodriguez said that he heard the officers that shot Miller and other officers make racially and sexually derogatory remarks about Miller, her family, friends and acquaintances.

Their slurs are, Rodriguez insists, symptomatic of the deep and pervasive pattern of racial discrimination within the Latino officers within the department and the abuses many officers commit on the streets against minorities. He claims that these practices are condoned by police higher-ups and city officials. Rodriguez is one of the few working police to break the code of silence, renounce the "police culture," and defy the brass to reveal in graphic detail how racism operates within the department. But Riverside's officials are dismissing Rodriguez's allegations as distortions. They insist that the department enforces a "zero tolerance" policy against racist acts by officers. However, there are three compelling reasons to believe Rodriguez.

Several observers at the scene of the Miller shooting confirmed that the officers did engage in the behavior Rodriguez described. Police officials even said they were investigating possible "inappropriate"

behavior by its officers. And, the U.S. Attorney has launched a deep probe into the department to determine how widespread abusive racial practices are. Then, there's the treatment of Rodriguez, which has been nothing short of disgraceful. Since he has been on the job, threats, intimidation and harassment by other officers. Rodriguez even charged that his life had been put in danger by officers deliberately refusing to provide him with back-up support in dangerous situations. He was placed on administrative leave in March 1999. Since then, he said he has been denied pay and health benefits, reducing his wife and three children to a state of

When public officials, however, turn their backs on credible whistleblowers within police departments, it's a powerful deterrent for others who witness misconduct and abuse.

near bankruptcy. They almost lost their house.

"I was shamed and embarrassed," said Rodriguez, "to have to accept a donation of food from a local church, but I needed it." He said the donation came from St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Riverside, when the city denied his claim for worker's compensation benefits. He has appealed the decision, but it could take up to six months before a decision is made and even then there is no guarantee that he will be granted benefits.

By contrast to the mistreatment of Rodriguez, the four officers that gunned down Miller and their supervising officer were placed on paid administrative leave

for months before their recent firings. They currently receive financial support and encouragement from the police union. And, a large contingent of White officers shaved their heads in protest of the officer's firing and have solicited funds from residents to support them in their battle for reinstatement.

It's Rodriguez who should have received the grateful thanks of the public and been showered with accolades and commendations by public officials. Instead he has been reviled and reduced to destitution. The shabby treatment of Rodriguez also makes a strong mockery of the claim by police officials that they are the "finest police department" in the country. As a powerful deterrent to other police, especially police departments, to report abuses and misconduct and will reward them when they do so.

When public officials, however, turn their backs on credible whistleblowers within police departments, it's a powerful deterrent for others who witness misconduct and abuse.

Still, Rodriguez does not regret his decision to come forth. He is hopeful that blowing the whistle on the blatant racial practices by some police officers will help break the damaging code of silence within police departments. We should stand in support of Rodriguez and encourage and support him in his fight for justice.

Send expressions of support to: Rodriguez Support Fund c/o Atty. Constance Rice at 801 S. Grand #1900 Los Angeles, CA 90017. Call (213) 615-1660.

Earl Ofari Hutchinson is a syndicated columnist and the director of the National Alliance for Positive Action. E-mail him at chutch344@aol.com.

Examining white supremacy

By Dr. Conrad W. Worrill

How many times have you heard someone of African ancestry say, "Black people are our own worst enemy"? We have too many African American people in this country for any length of time. I am sure you have heard this remark made many times.

Unfortunately, the system of white supremacy, developed in the western world, has caused far too many African American people in this country for any length of time. I am sure you have heard this remark made many times.

We must remind ourselves that in time and again that African people in America were captured from Africa and brought to this hemisphere against our will. As the 1974 "Black Capital" article asserted, "Our introduction to the West was in the hands of a commandingly rapacious African who, as a later capital, chatted, and curtailed like a lion to build a nation for someone else."

In the article, it explained that, "our history tells us that we were below slaves and less than human. We were things who were traded for horses, our women used as breeders and our children raised like cattle."

Finally, the "Black Capital" article pointed out that during the slavery process, "The level of our existence was based upon the skill and the will of those who owned us. They had the right to deem that which was best for property."

The article, the profit-oriented side of the slave master determined that this Black wealth would bring the highest return on its investment.

This is still at work today. Just examine the role of African people in the entertainment and athletics industry. White people own and control these industries and use African people to bring the highest return on their investment.

If African American people are going to ever have a serious mental breakthrough in terms of how we analyze our condition in America, we will have to resolve the question, "Are we our own worst enemy," or has the system of white supremacy created a set of conditions that continue to keep us in an

oppressed state?

We must accept responsibility for answering this question as well as accepting responsibility for solving all the problems we face as a people. But in accepting responsibility, we must also accept the reality we face as an African people in America, we must have a framework out of which to properly conceptualize our problems.

In 1852, the great African thinker in America, Martin R. Delany, wrote one of the most important books that accurately predicted the direction of our country at that moment in history and is still applicable to our condition today. The title of the book is *The Condition, Elevation, Emigration and Destiny of the Colored People of the United States*.

Delany wrote, "Unfortunately for us as a body, we have been taught that we must have someone to think for us, instead of thinking for ourselves, and this attitude of submission and this kind of training that it is difficult, even among the most intelligent of the colored people, an audience may be elicited for any purpose whatever, if the expounder is to be colored."

In resolving the question of whether we are our own worst enemy, we must reflect that for over three hundred years white people openly discussed African people as a people (1600-1900). Today they still discuss us as a problem but the language is coded differently.

Dr. Andrew Thompson has written on the discussions that African people had with white people they historically called "the Negro Problem." Dr. Thompson writes, "There is a duality in the story of western white man and his culture, which, paradoxically, is drawn into sharp relief whenever the black man appears (or is dropped) on the scene." Dr. Thompson writes, "whatever or wherever the white man exists is proximity to the black man."

What we must continue to do is understand this negative African American behavior and assume responsibility for changing it. The enemy and problem is white supremacy and its continued impact on us.

Establishing your purpose in life

By Herbert Harris

A clearly defined purpose protects your life into infinity. Once you have identified your purpose, you can set a direction for your life. As you strive to realize your purpose, you harmonize with the rhythms of life which form your destiny. The rhythms of peace, health, beauty, happiness, creative action and abundance.

Seven Guidelines For Establishing Your Purpose:

1. It must be idealistic. Always strive for the highest and best in all things. See what you are capable of doing. Rather than what you should be, rather than as they say. Use your imagination as your guide in establishing your purpose.

2. It must be visionary. See beyond the horizon. Learn to perceive, remember, accept and rely on your dreams. Don't be discouraged if your purpose appears to be impossible.

3. It must be positive. Positive is the attitude of your mind. Positive is the attitude of your heart. Positive is the attitude of your soul. Positive is the attitude of your spirit.

4. It must be realistic. Realistic is the attitude of your body. Realistic is the attitude of your mind. Realistic is the attitude of your heart. Realistic is the attitude of your soul. Realistic is the attitude of your spirit.

5. It must be challenging. Your purpose should make you stretch to reach your highest potential. It should a continuous challenge to your faith and to your abilities. Your faith grows stronger as your purpose grows stronger. As your growth grows so does your ability to face and prevail over even greater challenges.

6. It must set you on fire. When your purpose sets you on fire you become obsessed with its immediate and continuous realization. Every moment of your life is dedicated to your purpose. It talk about it and act on it. The source of this fire from your purpose is your deep desire. Deep desire causes you to exert every element of the power and energy you possess for the realization of your purpose.

7. It must be worthwhile. Your purpose must fulfill a legitimate positive need in the world. Your purpose must attract the forces of the universe to aid and assist you in its continuous realization. Once you identify and articulate your purpose, write it down. This is your statement to yourself and to the world of where you are going with your life.

With this clear and concise statement of your purpose, you can determine what must be done for its realization. Then you can establish the goals which will guide you to your purpose, and make plans for attaining these goals.

Herbert Harris is a author and speaker.

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BUSINESS CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27

ELIZABETH — Union County College offers a course in Excel '97, through Oct. 29, 7 p.m. \$700-\$760.

ELIZABETH — Union County College offers a course in A+ Certification, 7 p.m. (908) 709-7600.

WESTFIELD — The Rutgers Cooperative Extension hosts a workshop on maximizing benefits of retirement plans, 7 p.m. (908) 654-9842.

CALDWELL — Caldwell College hosts a workshop on building your business through the Internet at Alumni Theater, 7 p.m. (973) 226-4424.

NEWARK — The U.S. Small Business Administration announces on developing business and marketing strategies for electronic business at Two Gateway Center, 9 p.m. (973) 645-6064.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28

CRAVENFORD — Union County College offers a course in introductory courses in computers, 8 p.m. (908) 709-7600.

WESTFIELD — Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Union County hosts a second series workshop on financial strategies for retirement, 7 p.m. (908) 654-9854.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29

KINGSTON, Jamaica — The National Ministry Business Council Inc. and Jamaica Economic Development Agency host Trade and Investment Mission at the Trela Hotel, through Nov. 2. Call (212) 573-2385.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2

NEWARK — The Union League of Essex County offers a course in buying a home at its Central Avenue, Newark office, 6 p.m. (973) 746-9438.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4

NEW BRUNSWICK — Rutgers University sponsors a workshop on buying a home, 7 p.m. (908) 654-9842 and survival presentations at the school's Cook Campus, 8 a.m. (732) 932-7084.

NEW BRUNSWICK — Rutgers Cooperative Extension hosts a workshop on financial strategies for retirement, 7 p.m. (908) 654-9854.

Black universities join forces with Freddie Mac for black homeownership

WASHINGTON — Five Historically Black Colleges and Universities have joined with Freddie Mac, one of the country's largest mortgage lenders to conduct a multi-million dollar consumer credit initiative to increase minority homeownership. Their plan involves helping consumers better understand credit and improve their own credit records.

While credit problems persist across all income and racial groups, preliminary research conducted by the HBCUs shows that poor credit is especially a problem in the African-American community.

Freddie Mac has been working with five of the HBCUs — Bethune-Cookman, Howard University, Florida A&M, Howard University and Saint Augustine's College — since January when the Freddie Mac award them an initial \$1.3 million for the program.

Freddie Mac chose the HBCUs because of the unique opportunities they bring to the challenge of improving homeownership among

minority borrowers; their long history of community outreach and service, and their experience in providing adult education on issues such as finance, mortgages and credit management.

The National Urban League and the NAACP have agreed to help with implementation of the broad-based implementation of the plan and present a specific curriculum to black consumers.

Growth is good for business

Increasing the pool of qualified

black and minority home buyers

will play an important role in future expansion of the home mort

gage industry, a key to Freddie

Mac's growth in the future.

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they bring to the challenge of

improving homeownership among

minority borrowers.

An extensive national survey of

12,000 consumers has revealed preliminary results:

• Having a poor credit record is relatively common, with 30 percent of respondents having "bad" credit (being either 90-days late on a payment in the last two years), 30 days late on a payment more than once in the last two years, or delinquent on public records or bankruptcy.

• Credit problems are not unique to low-income consumers. At just 96 percent of consumers with incomes of \$20,000 to \$30,000 have credit records, but even between \$65,000 and \$75,000 (the highest income group surveyed), 22 percent have them.

• 50 percent of those with good credit say they do an excellent or good job of controlling spending compared to just 31 percent of those with bad credit.

• 54 percent of those with bad credit say they do a fair or poor job planning for their financial futures, while only 33 percent of those with good credit say they do a fair or poor job.

Getting our fair share of tourist dollars



James Clingman

gains, audiovisual exports, meeting planners, book stores, boutiques, beauty and barber shops, boutiques, and art galleries. I could go on.

We work with our members to make sure they can deliver what we promise. Business capacity is most important. We want to make sure they want about other businesses, getting all the action, but if we can't deliver, someone else will. Conversely, if we are prepared and can provide good service, we will get the business. We believe we are Black — because we are Black — because we are Black.

Get involved in your tourism in your city and make it a major part of your economic empowerment strategy.

In this multi-billion dollar industry, Black people contribute to the success of the industry. Shouldn't we get something back? We travel the country, stay in the finest hotels, eat and drink only the best, and spend, spend, spend.

Someone throws a party and we contribute to it. We do it all to get the respect and reciprocity we deserve from those who benefit from our patronage. But nooo! Others will continue to take our tourism dollars and return few as possible as long as we allow them to. Wouldn't you know it?

Since it is now quite obvious that we are unwilling to follow Tom Brown's advice of over a decade ago — to stop converging for one year — there are some other things we can do.

We can form businesses and groups who can take advantage of the huge opportunities in tourism. Via our Black Chamber of Commerce in Cincinnati, we developed our own tourism bureau. Our aim is to attract groups, tourists and family reunions to our city. More importantly, when they come, we can make sure that our Black-owned businesses can gain from the economic activity.

Maybe we do not own any convention centers, but we do have caterers, florists, security firms, tour companies, T-shirt vendors, photographers, computer technicians

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Stay Connected- Any Way You Like.



Through New Jersey Energy Choice, you have the power to choose your own electricity supplier. You can choose to switch to a new supplier, or choose to do nothing at all and stay with your current one. There's no deadline to make your decision because energy choice is here to stay. Take the time to select the best source of power for you, your family and the environment. Don't worry, you won't be switched

without your consent. And whether you choose to switch or not, you'll still get the reliable electrical service you've always counted on. Ask for your enrollment guide today. In it you will find helpful information on Energy Choice including answers to frequently asked questions, your rights as a consumer in the program, a list of licensed electricity suppliers, and information about your electric usage for the past year.

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Local Briefs

Plainfield organization hosts forum for city council candidates

PLAINFIELD — The Plainfield League of Women Voters recently sponsored a City Council Candidates' Forum at the Plainfield Public Library. This event was open to the public, offering an opportunity for Plainfield citizens to direct questions to individual candidates on health care, news and plans regarding the various important issues facing their community. The candidates running for City Council are: Joseph Scott, Democrat, 1st Ward; Sal Carriero, Republican, 1st Ward; Bob Fazio, Republican, 2nd and 4th Wards and Cory Storch, Democrat, 2nd and 4th Wards.

The Plainfield League of Women Voters is sponsoring this forum in order to give the Plainfield voters an arena in which the candidates can express their positions on important issues facing the city. We want to encourage the broadest possible citizen participation in the election process, thereby ensuring the best possible representation in city government.

Please contact Lynn C. Chaffin, LWV-Voters' Registration Chairperson (908-497-2339) if you have any questions regarding the forum.

Paterson Public School District hosts Japanese ministry of education

PATERSON — In an attempt to learn more about the educational system, history and culture in the USA, the Paterson School district has been selected to host a delegation of twenty Japanese administrators and educators representing the Education Bureau of Tokyo. The delegation toured the Paterson Schools earlier this month. The Japanese Ministry of Education arranged the visit.

Newark students and "Do Something" to turn vision into reality

NEWARK — Recently 200 "Do Something" team students from schools throughout Newark unveiled their vision for Newark's future and pledge to learn the lessons and take the actions necessary to make their vision a reality. The kick-off event for Newark Do Something's "Community Coach Program." The program is an innovative school-based leadership and community service program that mobilizes students and teachers designed to coaches to teach students leadership skills and to help them design and implement their own service projects to improve their schools and neighborhoods.

Halloween birthday party for center members born in October

PLAINFIELD — All members of the Plainfield Senior Citizens Service Center, 305 East Front St., are invited to a Halloween Birthday Party for Center members who were born in October. Cake and punch will be served at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, October 29. Plan to wear a costume and win first prize. Volunteers who wish to entertain for the party can contact Patty Bender. For details call the Center (908) 753-3506.

12th Annual Shoes for the Needy Campaign at St. Peter's

NEW BRUNSWICK — Daniel L. Margolin, DPM, and his staff have kicked off their annual campaign to collect shoes for those in need. Last year they reached their goal of 12,000 pairs of shoes.

This year they have set a goal of collecting 15,000 pairs by March 2000. Margolin's project collects shoes in good or excellent condition at his office in Somerset Plaza, Suite 1000 A, 1553 Highway 27, Somerset. He estimates that he has collected about 10,000 pairs so far.

The Margolin project was inspired by the indigen he worked with while a podiatry student in Philadelphia. He saw a lot of problems where people "didn't have appropriate footwear." He also found it a great way to give good, used shoes to the needy, was very successful at the Chicago School of Podiatry Medicine. For more information call the New Jersey Foot & Ankle Center at 732-828-8998.

Free/low-cost health insurance for children at local Kmart

TRENTON — It's getting easier for New Jersey families to find out about affordable health insurance for their children just go to the nearest Kmart and apply.

Agencies representing New Jersey KidCare, the state program that provides free or low-cost health insurance for uninsured children and teens, will be at 20 Kmart stores throughout New Jersey on Saturday, October 30 from noon to 4 p.m. They will assist shoppers in filling Out applications, answer any questions about the program and give \$35 gift certificates for every completed application.

NJ KidCare is working in conjunction with the Children's Defense Fund, Mather Stewart, Omnimedic and Kmart Corporation to promote the Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP). The public service campaign that presents families with opportunities to learn more about government-sponsored child health insurance programs in New Jersey, New York and Connecticut where none exist. In New Jersey, uninsured children receive CHIP services. The campaign has experienced the greatest response in New Jersey, which has the most participating Kmart stores.

"NJ KidCare has been a life-saver for my family. Before we enrolled and were accepted into the program, my wife and I were constantly worried about our son's health because anything we didn't want him to get sick or hurt," explained Ewing Township resident Glenn Fiore, who was injured at work over two years ago and lost health insurance for his family. He says KidCare has given him peace of mind and has provided his son with health and dental coverage for his three children. Kristine (age 15), Holly (age 13) and Joshua (age 12).

NJ KidCare provides a comprehensive package of health care services through its partners, including Omnimedic (OMNO). The services include child and other preventative services, hospitalization, physician care, lab and X-ray services, prescription drugs, mental health services, vision and other services. Uninsured New Jersey children 18 years of age and under may be eligible.



Affordable health coverage. Quality care.

Eligibility is based on the number of people in the family and the family's total income. Recently, Governor Christine Whitman signed a bill that raised the income limits of the KidCare program. Families with incomes up to 350 percent of the federal poverty line (which includes a family of four with an income of \$38,450 or less) are eligible.

Here is a list of the K-Mart stores participating in the program:

1930 State Highway, Bricktown
120 Hamburg Turnpike, Ewing
Rt. 130, Haines Mill Rd, Delran
500 S. Crescent Blvd., Pennsauken
180 Broadway, Elmwood Park
800 Blackhorse Pike, Pleasantville
970 Eastern Ave., Somers
1140 E. Main St., Elizabeth
7401 Towne Ave., North Bergen
1200 Highway 22, Phillipsburg
3850 S. Delair St., Vineland
Rt. 440, Jersey City
200 Passaic Ave., Keamy
Rt. 22, North Plainfield
1420 N. Broad St., Newark
1089 U.S. Highway 9, Old Bridge
371-411 Main St., Belleville
4594 Rt. 9, South River
1701 W. Edgar Rd., Linden

—Wolfe

Cuomo announces funds available to NJ residents to recover from Hurricane Floyd

WASHINGTON — In a move to help New Jersey recover from Hurricane Floyd, Housing and Urban Development Secretary Andrew Cuomo recently announced the early availability of about \$43 million in HUD assistance that would normally gone to New Jersey in early 2000.

The accelerated Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) assistance will be made available in November to the following governments: these are the areas most affected by Hurricane Floyd: Bergen County — \$7.3 million.

Middlesex County — \$2 million Morris County — \$2.5 million, Somerset County — \$1.5 million, Union County — \$0.2 million. The State of New Jersey — \$10.9 million. The State will distribute its share of the HUD funds to Hunterdon, Mercer and Passaic Counties.

New Jersey Historical Society receives grant for innovative teen parenting program

NEWARK — The New Jersey Historical Society, in partnership with the Barringer Infant-Toddler Center at Barringer High School, the Young Fathers Program at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, and the Newark Public Library of the Urban League of Essex County, announced today that they received a \$49,100 grant for their program "Partners in Learning: Teens and Their Children at Museums" through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) in 1998.

The program will provide adolescent parents with many non-traditional educational resources for them and their children." The Society received the National Award for Museum Service from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) in 1998. Established in 1994, the award honors museums that demonstrate institutional commitment to public service with innovative programs that address education, social, economic or environmental issues.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) approved just 11 applications across the nation through their Museum Leadership Initiative program and awarded grants totaling \$609,391. The collaborations between museums and community-based organizations harness the combined strengths and ideas of the partners to address pressing community issues.

The New Jersey Historical Society became the Partners in Learning program as a pilot project in 1998-99 to address the needs of adolescent parents in Newark public schools, partially supported by the Turrell Fund. The program has been successful in encouraging children to take an interest in the arts, history, and science. Congratulations to the New Jersey Historical Society for developing this partnership in time."

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CITY NEWS PUBLISHING COMPANY

invites you to attend the
Fifth Annual

CITY NEWS Most Influential 2000 Gala Event

honoring individuals for their tireless efforts
in furthering the progress of black people in
New Jersey and rebuilding
New Jersey's urban communities

Thursday, April 27, 2000
New Jersey Performing Art Center

5:30 p.m. V.I.P. Reception 8:00 p.m. Program

RSVP by April 17, 2000

(973) 642-4400

Business/Evening Attire

Health Calendar

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27

CRAFORD — Union County College in Elizabeth's Muhlenberg Region, as Medicus Center, will be hosting its Fall Open House at the Hospital's School of nursing building, 6 p.m. (908) 298-2000

JERSEY CITY — Jersey City Medical Center will hold a support group for breast cancer survivors 6 p.m. (201) 915-2273

NEW BRUNSWICK — St. Peter's University Hospital holds a support group meeting for parents with children in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) 7 p.m. (732) 745-8500

NEW BRUNSWICK — Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital offers a course in Lamaze Preparation for childbirth 7-15 p.m. (732) 937-8820

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28

NEW BRUNSWICK — Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital holds a support group meeting for families who want to adopt 7 p.m. (732) 937-8820

NEW BRUNSWICK — St. Peter's University Hospital holds a support group meeting for those dependent on nicotine 5:30 p.m. (732) 937-8050

NEWARK — The City of Newark and the Department of Health and Human Services offer free flu and pneumonia shots at the Ironbound Health Project 10 a.m. (973) 733-7581

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29

NEW BRUNSWICK — Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital holds a support group meeting for people suffering from manic depression 7:30 p.m. (732) 937-8820

UNIVERSAL LIFE INSURANCE, Inc. hosts a seminar and workshop geared to individuals at the Summit Recreation Center, Call (908) 273-4585 for information

NEW BRUNSWICK — Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital holds a support group meeting for those who have had a stroke 12:30 p.m. (732) 937-8820

NEWARK — The City of Newark and the Department of Health and Human Services offer free flu and pneumonia shots at the FOCUS Building, 10 a.m. (973) 733-7581

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30

ORANGE — The Hospital Center of Orange offer free screenings for prostate cancer 9 a.m. (973) 295-2024

NEW BRUNSWICK — Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital holds a support group meeting for women in conflict 10 a.m. (732) 937-8820

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31

NEW BRUNSWICK — Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital holds a support group meeting for people who are over 65 10 a.m. (732) 937-8820

Newark offers free health shots for its residents

The City of Newark's Department of Health Human Services (DHHS), Division of Community Health will provide free flu and pneumonia shots at various Newark sites from now until early November. Shots will be administered from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Here's a listing of the sites

10/28/99:
Ironbound Health Project
95 Fleming Avenue

10/29/99:
FOCUS Building
441-443 Board Street

11/1/99:
Com. Health Service Clinic
25 Pennsylvania Avenue

11/3/99:
Grace West Manor
301 Irvine Turner Blvd

11/4/99:
St. Mary's Villa
425 Sanford Avenue

11/5/99:
Nellie Grier Senior Citizens
98-104 Maple Avenue

11/8/99:
New Community Association
180 S. Orange Avenue

11/10/99:
New Community Manor
545 Orange St

Mayor Sharpe James hopes everyone follows through

"All citizens must take advantage of the Ironbound program which provides an invaluable service to the Newark community," said James. For more information, call (973) 733-7581

HeartBeat

National Breast Cancer Awareness Month: a rallying call to save lives

This year more than 180,000 women in the United States will learn for the first time that they have breast cancer, a condition that will result in more than 40,000 deaths. In fact, breast cancer is the most frequently diagnosed cancer for American women.

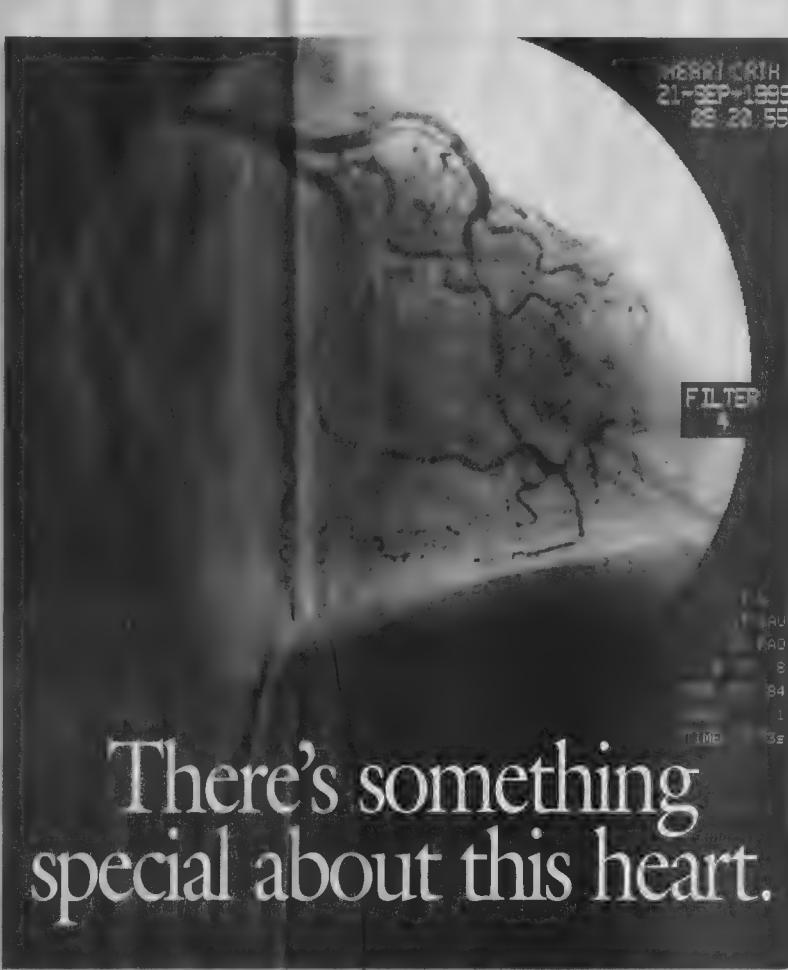
As the National Breast Cancer Awareness month wanes down,

across the state there are a number of initiatives to encourage employees in NBCAM. A panel discussion taking place from 12:30-1:30 p.m. with health practitioners will address the issue.

In Newark, October 30, is a day designated to save lives — from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Newark's Beth Israel Medical Center in the Fle-

Ok Oncological Center will be conducting free breast exams, free mammograms and breast exams and reserve a spot for a screening (973) 928-2673. Low cost mammograms will be offered in New Brunswick during the week of October 25, at Saint Peter's University Hospital's Health Clinic for

Women. This service is intended for women over 40 who do not have a recent mammogram or are a woman with health insurance. Cost: \$5. The screening will take place in the new Care Building, 10 First Avenue. For more information and to schedule an appointment, call (732) 456-8600 ext. 6686



There's something special about this heart.

You're looking at a heart with two blocked arteries. How would you know? You wouldn't.

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Pain spreading to the shoulders, neck or arms

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PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY

Artz Wednesday

October 27 — November 2, 1999

Jazzy Betty Carter 'Jazz Ahead' residency looking for cutting edge artists

WASHINGTON—Young jazz artists in their teens to late-twenties who wish to apply for the April 20-28, 2000, "Jazz Ahead" residency, Betty Carter's "Jazz Ahead," an annual part of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Jazz Programs, are advised that the application deadline is Jan. 7, 2000.

Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead identifies outstanding young jazz artists and brings them together under the tutelage of experienced artist-instructors who coach them, help them polish their performance, composing and arranging skills. Residency participants will work with established jazz artists April 20-28, and perform in two concerts on the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage at 6 p.m. on Thursdays, April 27 and May 4, 2000. Those performances will be broadcast live over the internet.

Betty Carter, who possessed one of this era's most

extraordinary voices, was devoted to jazz education. She brought her Jazz Ahead program, which she has launched the careers of several of today's stars including Cyrus Chestnut and Jacky Terrasson, to the Kennedy Center in 1997.

Applicants for the Jazz Ahead program must be both jazz composers and performers. To apply, applicants must submit a resume and a good quality cassette tape of their work. A panel of jazz artists selected by the Kennedy Center will review applications, and applicants will be informed of their status by mid-March. The Kennedy Center will provide residency participants with housing, travel to and from Washington, D.C., and modest honoraria for meal expenses.

Jazz Ahead application may be downloaded free at www.kennedy-center.org/jazz-ahead or by contacting Kennedy Center Jazz, 2700 F St. NW, Washington, D.C., 20566. Telephone (202) 416-8348.

Robert F. Williams III
Staff Writer

Those who have had the pleasure to listen to James Butler's new album will probably describe it as a very personal and an intimate journey for him.

And for those in attendance at CD 101.9 Jazz concert held October 15, at the Beacon Theater in New York City, would describe it as something else, an addition of being up close and personal. Butler with intense facial expressions and beads of sweat running from his forehead under the blue light, sang songs reverberating from the heart, while in casual attire and strumming his guitar, sang many of his hits, including "Lie," and cuts off his new album—"Story of Life."

With the audience giving Butler a standing ovation on more than one occasion was significant to the relationship he established with the audience, with some calling out with personal requests and praise.

"Can't Let Go," a cut off his newest release was mellow piano, a good example of Butler's inner groove. Joining him in the spotlight were his background singers who added the spice that complimented Butler's vocals which resonated powerful. His percussionist added cultural depth playing the congo drums and other African instruments. So moving was the performance that he ended with an encore of "Lie."

Not many acts can follow one like Butler's, but one did in the form of Boney James. The Kenny G look-a-like wood the audience with solos on his clarinet and saxophone, while doing his trademark knees-together-knees-out horizontal slide across the stage. He followed his "I'm a Night Long," and his version of Janet Jackson's "I Get So Lonely," he had the crowd to their feet.

Photo by Andrew Eccles

Butler, James jazz it up at the Beacon



Photo by Larry Busacca

Jonathan Butler lar band — former member and songwriter of Rufus, guitarist Rob Lawrence, and others whose solos were as entertaining as Boney himself

Music Notes

Ginuwine goes from music shelves to fragrance shelves

Ginuwine is currently in development and financing his own fragrance line, and plans to call it "100% Ginuwine." He is also planning a female fragrance called "G-Spot," and is expected to be in stores by Christmas. He is also planning to kickoff a tour with Case 112, and Donell Jones.

Jive Records to release A Tribe Called Quest Collection

Although A Tribe Called Quest have broken up, Jive Records will release a collection of their music, "Anthology" on October 26. The collection will include songs like "Bonita Applebaum," "Scenario," "Award Tour," "Hot Sex," and others.

Currently, Q-Tip is getting ready for the release of his solo debut album, "Amplified," and a "Prison Song," which he co-wrote and will star in with Mary J. Blige, Elton Costello, and Fat Joe.

Phife Dawg just recorded a single and Al Shahed Muham and has teamed up with former En Vogue vocalist Dawn Robin and Tony!Toni!Tone! former singer Raphael Saadiq in a group called Lucy Pearl.

Judith Jamison, Stevie Wonder to be honored at Kennedy Center

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts announced that dancer and teacher Judith Jamison, and singer and songwriter Stevie Wonder will receive awards at the Kennedy Center Honors of 1999.

Recipients along with Wonder and Jamison at the 22nd annual celebration of the arts

will be Sean Conney, Victor Borges, and Jason Robards at the center's Opera House December 5, and will be aired on CBS at 9 p.m.

In addition to that, Wonder is also celebrating the birth of his first grandchild, a son born earlier this month to daughter Aisha, who was the subject of his hit, "Isn't She Lovely."

TLC announces touring dates

Best-selling hip-hop trio TLC announced dates for their first ever arena headlining tour, which kicked off in Toronto Oct. 22 along with opening acts Destiny's Child, K-Ci and Jojo, and Christina Aguilera. Tour dates in the Mid-Atlantic and New England area include: 10/31 Baltimore, MD Arena 11/7 - Hampton, VA Hampton Coliseum 11/12 Hartford, CT Civic Center 11/13 - Providence, RI Civic Center 11/16 - Buffalo, NY Mariner Midland Arena

Michael Jackson cancels Millennium Concerts

Michael Jackson has decided to cancel two concerts he was scheduled to perform on December 31 in Australia and Hawaii. Various reports said Jackson wanted to finish recording his new album, and did not want the concerts to interfere with that.

Jackson had planned to perform in Sydney, Australia, and then fly across the international dateline to Hawaii, which is 12 hours behind Sydney.

All of this comes just after Jackson and his wife, Debbie Rowe, announced their divorce after three years of marriage and two children

In Your Ear

By Robert F. Williams III

Brandy is not a diva

Diva is a term that has been altered with the evolution of music.

At first, it was a term applied to only the great singers in the opera house. Later on, it was applied to those who were considered great in almost every genre. But now, does it apply to those who have had commercial success, but do not possess the vocal strength matching past divas?

According to VH-1, this must be so VH-1 Divas Live 99, which is releasing a CD on Oct. 26, and on Nov. 2, invites Brandy to sing along with Mariah Carey, LeAnn Rimes, Whitney Houston, Aretha Franklin, Celine Dion, and Tina Turner among others.

Granted, Brandy has matched many of the women who on the concert as far as reaching that plateau of success. But she has definitely success as an actress with her show "Moosha," and will have equal success on the big screen, evidenced by "I Know What You Did Last Summer 2." However, when it comes to music it's a different story.

The first mark of a diva is how they sing. It's what's always been the voice. Usually, divas have an eight-octave, or have remarkable vocal strength that few can match. Some of the top singers are equipped with both. Currently, the eight-octaves in music are Carey and Dion, among others. Those who have embellishing voices are: Houston, Franklin, Rimes, and Turner. However, Brandy does have an appealing raspiness to her voice, but does not have the vocal strength nor range like these singers do, and pales in comparison to them.

The second mark of a diva is how long they stay true on the VH-1 stage. Divas around at least ten years with the exception of Rimes, and their names are well known to the mainstream public. From the start of their careers, they exemplified their talent and were able to survive on their singing alone. Brandy does have the potential to achieve longevity, as evidenced by her superbly produced tracks off her two albums, which produced at least three singles each and have won numerous awards. In this era where a good producer can take anybody anywhere, within this boomer generation, Brandy could not have started her career at a better time.

Now, if VH-1 is really in need of a young diva, maybe in 2000 they should look at the new artist, Christina Aguilera, whose vocal power allows her free range, this Spanish cantadora can certainly hold her own with any R&B and gospel singer in the world.

Overall, Brandy does have the attitude and appeal of a diva, but that is pretty much it. VH-1 made a error in calling her a diva, because it has now put her on a pedestal that she might be pushed off by those who truly have that vocal.

To Aspiring Poets

The City News Artz Wednesday section is seeking unpublished poets to submit their work for exposure in a upcoming section featuring new artists.

The African American Heritage Masquerade Ball Committee, a sub-committee of AAHPC, Inc.

is hosting



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Grace Little



And The Feeling
Harold Melvin's Blue Notes
with dancing in the Terrace Ballroom.

Also enjoy the smooth sounds of

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And Her Jazzy All-Star Quartet



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30TH, 1999

Doors Open 8:00PM, Reception 8:30-10:00PM

Tickets On Sale at Symphony Hall Box Office

Proceeds to benefit the African American Heritage Parade, Inc.

For more information or to be mailed tickets
call (973) 642-5051 or Toll Free (868) 227-5596

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27

MADISON — The New Jersey Shakespeare Festival presents "Romeo & Juliet" at the F. M. Kirby Theater. Call (973) 468-3807 for information.

TENAFLY — The African American Art Museum of the S.M.A. presents an art exhibit of African images as ritual objects and paintings. 10 a.m. (201) 894-3611.

BELLEVILLE, N.J. — The Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) presents the play "Morning Song" (Irvington, October 30, 7:30 p.m. (718) 636-4194).

NEW YORK — The Studio Museum in Harlem hosts an exhibit of selected works from the permanent collection of resident artist at the museum. Call (212) 864-4500 for information.

NEW BRUNSWICK — The Crossroads Theater presents Kim Coles and Charles Randolph-Wright in the hit play "Homework" (Irvington, October 31, 8 p.m. (973) 393-3189).

MILLBURN — The Paper Mill Playhouse presents the play "Rags" (Call (973) 593-0189 for information).

NEW BRUNSWICK — The Rutgers Theater Company presents "The New Testament" at the school's New Theater. 8 p.m. (973) 932-2222.

WAYNE — The National Theater of the Deaf presents the play "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" at the William Paterson University. 10 a.m. 1 (800) 526-4971.

MAHWAH — The Angelica and Russ Bennis Center for the Performing and Visual Arts at Ramapo College of New Jersey and the American Company presents "Richard III" (Call (201) 694-7623 for information).

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29

NEW YORK — Veteran actor Keith David performs his cabaret act at the D. Lounge located inside the Hotel Delmonico through October 31. 9 p.m. (212) 333-4400.

HAMPTON — The Hampton Hills Playhouse presents the Off-Broadway play "Bear Jet" (Call (908) 730-8007) for time and information.

NEW BRUNSWICK — The State Theater presents ballerina dance. Suzanne Farrell, 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. (732) 246-7469.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30

WAYNE — William Paterson University presents the 14th season of the Wayne Paterson Orchestra. 8 p.m. (973) 720-2966.

NEWARK — The African American Heritage Committee hosts the Third Annual Masquerade Gala featuring Carrie Jackson and Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes at Newark Symphony Hall. 8 p.m. (973) 642-5051.

METUCHEN — The Forum Theater Company presents the kids play "I Want My Mummy" 11 a.m. (732) 546-4670.

NEW YORK — The African Women's Repertory presents the play "Women's Right Out" at the New Perspective Theater. 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. (718) 993-0070.

NEW BRUNSWICK — The State Theater presents Don Giovanni and the San Francisco Western Opera Theater. 8 p.m. (732) 246-7469.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31

NEWARK — The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) presents "Requiem for a King" (Call (973) 645-1000). Amiri Baraka, Diane Murray, Soulard Rose, Positive Black Soul, and special guests. 5 p.m. 1 (888) GO-NJAC.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3

MAHWAH — Ramapo College presents singer-songwriter Dan Bern at the Angelica and Russ Bennis Center for Performing and Visual Arts, located on the campus. 8 p.m. (201) 684-7602.

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — Hofstra University's Department of Drama and Dance presents "The Boys of Syracuse" at the Shubert John Cradock Adams Playhouse. Call (516) 463-8644 for information.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6

NEWARK — The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) presents the musical "Priscilla" through Nov. 7, 12 p.m. and 8 p.m. 1 (888) GO-NJAC.

METHUCHEN

— The Forum Theater Company hosts an event strictly for kids entitled "Circus Memeus." 11 a.m. (732) 546-4670.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11

NEWARK — The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) presents The Flying Karanazov Brothers through Nov. 14. 7:30 p.m. 1 (888) GO-NJAC.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12

CAPE MAY — The 12th Annual Cape May Jazz Festival returns to several sites in and around Cape May through Nov. 14. Call (609) 884-7277 for time and information.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13

NEWARK — The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) presents The Flying Karanazov Brothers, Sharps, Flats and Accidents. 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. 1 (888) GO-NJAC.

Artz**Malcolm D. Lee exceeds all expectations with "The Best Man"****The Best Man**

Universal Pictures
Directed by Malcolm D. Lee
Cast: Taye Diggs, Nie Long, Morris Chestnut, Harold Perrineau, Terrence Howard, Sanaa Lathan, Monica Calhoun, Melissa De Sousa

When the buzz started that Spike Lee's cousin Malcolm was making a major motion picture to debut this fall, two major thoughts probably ran through people's minds: "That's a good flick because he had the experience of working with his cousin, or because it was his first feature film he might not really break out until a couple movies after this."

But once audiences view "The Best Man," which at press time is set to be released on the October 22-24 weekend, then it's clear that Malcolm Lee is already on his way to the top. He is no joke business.

The movies provides an interesting plot and dynamic characters, woven into the story of a group of friends who went to college together and reunite for the marriage of two of their friends, Mia (Lorraine Monica Calhoun) and Lance (Lance Sullivan). Taye Diggs is the bookend, a writer who writes a book which BET producer Jordan Armstrong (Nie Long) gets her hands on and realizes some of the similarities between the characters in the book and the characteristics of the friends. The book eventually makes its way through the hands of all the friends, and when Lance is the



Harper Stewart (Taye Diggs) and Jordan Armstrong (Nie Long) play hard to get in this from "The Best Man." *Photo by Michael Glusberg*

centered snob.

The chemistry amongst the characters is fodder for dynamic dialogue that has more comical moments than what the commercials advertising the movie lead viewers to believe.

And like many movies, all ends happily ever after, as this movie provides a test at a test of true friendship, fidelity, trust, and love, touching all emotions on many different levels.

Robert E. Williams III

For the Bookshelves of African Americans

Not Yet "Free At Last"
Mikel Holt (JCS Press)

Holt, a journalist, writer, and activist of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and its fight to provide better educational opportunities and resources for the students in the Milwaukee Public School System in 1989. At this time, the city was implementing a desegregation plan which gave black students an inadequate busing pattern, the closing of many Central City schools where blacks resided. And the high pension rate among black students, where they were being suspended as the result of a "cultural clash." Holt names one incident in which two students where greeting each other with hand shakes and body slaps that was interpreted as a fight between two students. Others were being suspended for having Afro picks in their hair. In a fight the author terms, the "unfinished business of the Civil Rights Movement," he takes you on the black community's fight for better education for its students. This book is a powerful book about a community that rallies together for the benefit of its people, and future.

Sweet St. Louis
Omar Tyree (Simon & Schuster)

Women are subjected to many pick-up lines, but how many times to women hear one that makes them dig deeper into that man? This is the situation Sharron Francis enters when she is approached by Anthony "Ant" Poole, a young mech who is creative with his game. She is there for her companion and happiness. Ant's words are intriguing to her and keep her digging for more. Battle the question, will this be something serious or just another fling. This book is a interesting insight into the perspective on the issues of black romance, the fragilities of love, and the rewards of looking deeper into another person.

More Life Volume One
Principles & Practices for Positive Living

In the sea of motivational speakers that constantly prod at today's social issue, self-improvement, it is hard to see where the same repeated sayings end and new innovative approaches begin. This is where Doutte O. Cunningham steps in. Cunningham is not talking about anything new, but his refreshing approach to life

**NOT YET
FREE AT LAST**

THE UNFINISHED BUSINESS
OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT
OUR BATTLE FOR SCHOOL CHOICE



MIKEL HOLT

Sweet St. Louis
Omar Tyree

More Life
Principles & Practices
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Positive Living

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The Housing Authority of Salem is accepting bids for the Rehabilitation of Vacant Apartments. Generally, the work shall include: miscellaneous interior renovations and upgrades to prepare the unit for occupancy. If interested, contact Ruth O. Gross, PHM, Executive Director at the Housing Authority of the City of Salem, 205 Seventh Street, Salem, NJ 07079 by calling (973) 642-2622.

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HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN COUNTY OF SOMERSET

ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES

The Housing Authority of the Township of Franklin ("THAT") is seeking proposals from qualified Architectural/Engineering firms, licensed in the State of New Jersey, to design and construction management services at #1 Parkside Street, Somerset, NJ, 08873, for:

1) Installation of a Central HVAC system for Administration Building.

2) Upgrade Electrical Service for 50 low-income family units.

3) Upgrade of security lighting on ten (10) Senior Citizen housing buildings.

Interested firms can pick up an RFP Informational Packet from October 15, 1999 through October 15, 1999 between the hours of 8:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M. at the Housing Authority's Administrative Office (732) 545-9430, #1 Parkside Street, Somerset, NJ 08873.

Questions relating to the RFP may be directed to DeWayne K. Cruse, Executive Director, at (732) 545-9430.

The Housing Authority of the Township of Franklin reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any informality.

DeWayne K. Cruse
Executive Director
Housing Authority of the
Township of Franklin
\$83.99

THE LONG BRANCH HOUSING AUTHORITY

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES OF LAW FIRMS

The Long Branch Housing Authority (LBHA) requires the professional services of qualified Law Firms for legal services as:

General Counseling including Capital Improvements and Construction Litigation.

The LBHA intends to enter into an agreement to provide these legal services for a one year period, probably commencing in December, 1999.

The LBHA therefore requests proposals from qualified law firms WITH A MINIMUM OF FIVE YEARS' PRACTICE IN THE FIELD IN THE work described under the Scope of Services.

The LBHA RFP may be obtained by picking up at the Authority's Central Office, Garfield Court, Long Branch, NJ 07740. For postage please call (732) 223-3747 extension 124, Sally Morris.

All proposals must be received by the LBHA, at its Central Office, ATTN: Mr. William J. Lau, Executive Director, by the close of business (4:00 P.M.) on November 12, 1999.

William J. Lau
Executive Director

\$67.69



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CitySports

October 27 — November 2, 1999

Whatever happened to privacy?

If sportswriters wrote the laws or served as criminal court judges, smoking pot would warrant a fifty-year jail sentence, failing to phone your coach prior to missing training camp would be punishable by life in prison, and choking one's coach would be a capital offense. Sportswriters have increased — and amazingly found it necessary to offerathing commentary on the behavior of pro athletes. I'm still trying to figure out what qualifies sports writers to make such moral judgments.

I always thought sportswriters should be required to analyze the game-not report on how many children Shawn Kemp has fathered out of wedlock. I'm not suggesting that the behavior of an athlete is never relevant. But I do think that the stories should be explored much more objectively, fairly and in a less judgmental fashion.

Take for instance the case of Minnesota Vikings receiver Randy Moss. As of last week, particularly prior to the NFL Draft, it was constantly reported how much off the field trouble Moss had been involved in. It got so bad that I began to wonder whether the Vikings had signed a football player or a blood or a drug. After examining Moss' past, I discovered that the extent of his problems involved a fight way back when he was in high school — a fight which many believe was sparked by a racial epithet directed at Moss which resulted in a 30 day jail sentence. Prior to his release from jail, Moss was randomly drug tested by prison officials and failed the test. As a result, Moss' stay in jail was extended a few weeks. There you have it. No stolen cars, no rapes or robberies or any other violent felonies, just a kid whose stay in the joint was prolonged by his smoking a joint.

Drugs are serious problem in this country, so please do interpret my remarks as a condemnation of drug use. They're not.

However it's also wrong when sportswriter exploit relatively minor incidents as an effort to reinforce tired stereotypes about the angry, felonious, out-of-control black male. Misconduct on the part of athletes dates all the way back to Babe Ruth who was an admitted, self-confessed drunk and womanizer. Ty Cobb nearly beat a fan to death who referred to him as a Negro, and NFL great John Riggins got so drunk once at a formal Washington, D.C. affair, that he wound up passing around beneath his table commenting on the legs of Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who also happened to be seated at the same table. And what about Mel Spurrell had behaved in that manner? The Supreme Court probably would have overturned Brown v. Board of Education the very next day. Clearly there are some black athletes who are willing to get their act together, but does their misconduct merit the disproportionate attention which it attracts?

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By Jean H. Pierie
Staff Writer

When the baseball world looks back on 1999, they won't remember much of '99. They'll remember the home runs put up by Mark McGuire and Sammy Sosa. They won't remember perfect games pitched by David Cone of the New York Yankees and Eric Wedge of the Minnesota Twins. They won't recall the dominance and power of Boston Red Sox pitcher Pedro Martinez, who won more games than any pitcher in baseball. All they'll remember is the team playing in Florida, the Marlins, who made us believe.

Ever since spring training, the writers and fans felt the New York Mets were a team built for the playoffs. Why not? They had the best key players and veterans like Mike Venturino, Ryne Henderson, Shawn Duson, and Darryl Hamilton to improve the offense. The pitching became potent with the signing of Armando Benitez, Kenny Rogers and Orel Hershiser, and the signing of the best offense catcher in baseball history Mike Piazza for \$91 million. So the nucleus was set to make the push for the second season that has eluded the team since 1985.

Following a slow start, the team was one of the best by far



Third baseman Robin Ventura (left) hit the game-winning home-run to beat the Braves in game five of the NL Championship Series. That moment would only last temporarily as the Braves won the series on a ball four thrown by Kenny Rogers in game six.

in baseball with their solid hitting and defense thanks in part to their infeld (John Olerud, Rey Ordonez, Edgardo Alfonzo and Ventura) rated the best of all-time. Then came their biggest test in the late season — the Atlanta Braves. The team had dominated the Mets for years and nothing changed in '99 when the Mets were swept four games behind the Braves in the National League East Division. The Mets began their winning song from there by losing games 5 and 6 and, in



including the thrilling 15 inning classic.

So it was on to Atlanta for games six. After being down 5-0, the Mets charged right back to win 6-5. The Mets had Olerud, Hamilton and Olerud. But the biggest charge came from the bruised and beaten Piazza, who hit a two run homer to bring the Mets ahead. The momentum had switched to the Mets side.

What was going to be as magical as 1996 was for the New York Yankees. The Mets were a couple of outs away from forcing a game seven with the pressure squarely on the Boston Red Sox. It was to be for the "Amazin'" who squared a run to put the Braves in the World Series for the fifth time this decade.

Season over. The season that many felt could be the one of pure magic. You can blame a lot of things on the Mets for losing the series, but don't say, they didn't have heart. They showed us all of baseball things are possible when faced with adversity. The manager, Bobby Cox, wrote "Why not?", saying we can come back from three games down to get to the World Series, which hasn't been done in baseball. The Mets proved they were not the team to be counted down out.

Linden Tigers vs. Elizabeth Minutemen
October 29, 7 p.m. at Williams Field

Summer, who has racked up over 600 yards rushing for the season, also is getting some help from half-back Pierre Chapman. "When they key on Pierre it takes a lot of attention off of me," he said, which usually is a blinding factor for the opposing team. However, Elizabeth is

no slouch, after all their loss to Union all season, although being shut down against Scotch Plains.

Sumner, who has racked up over 600 yards rushing for the season, also is getting some help from half-back Pierre Chapman.

"When they key on Pierre it takes a lot of attention off of me," he said, which usually is a blinding factor for the opposing team. However, Elizabeth is

Rivalry



Full back Andre Summer No. 20, has been bringing the noise for Linden all season, although being shut down against Scotch Plains.

By Gilda Rogers

Staff Writer

It's Friday night under the lights October 29, in Elizabeth at 7 p.m., when the Minutemen will meet one of their arch-rivals — the Linden Tigers. Both teams, a part of the Watchung Conference were undefeated (4-0) until Linden met up with Scotch Plains, on its home turf

and got beat down 35-0, and Elizabeth fell to Union 14-8.

Linden is depending on its offensive and to get the job done, which will make Sumner a deadly threat.

"If we play hard and to the best of our ability we can beat them," said Sumner, giving pointers to wide receiver Gregory Parker. "We've got too much talent on this team, he catches everything."

NBA resumes drug testing after a six-day hiatus

By Chris Sheridan

NEW YORK (AP) — Drug testing in the NBA was suspended for six days after the identities of two players who tested positive for marijuana were disclosed to a reporter. The testing resumed Wednesday, and all players will have been subjected to urinalysis next week.

This is the first season in which NBA players are being tested for marijuana and steroids. Veterans can only be tested once a year, and a positive sample. Rookies are tested throughout the season. The players' union sent a letter to all players in September urging anyone who smoked marijuana to come forward and seek treatment if it was found to produce a drug sample. A first-time offender must undergo mandatory counseling, and a second positive test would include a \$15,000 fine. Subsequent positive tests would result in five-game suspensions.

The identities of two players who tested positive were revealed to The New York Times, which did not disclose who did not name them. The disclosure clearly caused friction between the union and the league. The information is considered highly sensitive, and both sides believe that the other had leaked the names. Even the players themselves did not know they had tested positive until a reporter from The Times alerted them. The drug agreement says players who test positive will not be told so until all the testing is completed.

The Times report also said that six players had tested positive for marijuana during the first week of testing, which began on Oct. 1. October teams are not notified in advance of the date of their tests, and players have typically arrived at practice to find representatives from the league and union waiting for them to produce urine samples.

Master P shows his stuff in exhibition game

EDMONTON, Alberta (AP)

Master P, known as Master F, scored eight points for the Toronto Raptors in a pre-season win over the Vancouver Grizzlies last week.

Miller, invited to the Raptors' training camp, was inserted into the lineup in the fourth quarter with his team well ahead. After committing a turnover and having two of his shots blocked, Miller made two 3-pointers and a layup. The Raptors played the final two minutes of Toronto's previous pre-season game, but was 0-for-2 from the field. Though he's said to be worth about \$400 million, Miller had to carry the bags of some of the veterans during training camp.

The 30-year-old had parlayed his rap records into a flourishing business with his own label, No Limit Records, and a financial interest in a sports agent business, the Union Sports. His company represents NFL rookie Robbie Gould, NBA players Ron Mercer and Derek Anderson. An all-state high school player in Louisiana, Miller's collegiate career at Houston was brief. He was waived by the Charlotte Hornets during camp last season. Before signing with the Hornets, he was with the CBA's Fort Wayne Fury. Miller is an acquaintance of Toronto coach Butch Carter. He'll be released next week.

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